



Brecknock Rural District Council.

Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1966.

Officials:

Medical Officer of Health T.C.R. George, M.R.C.S.,
Guildhall, Brecon. L.R.C.P.,
T.N. Brecon 2884. D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector W.J. Rees, Fellow of the
Royal Society of Health, Member of the Association of Public Health
Inspectors and Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, Meat and
Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Additional Public Health Inspector..... R. Taylor, Member of the
Royal Society of Health, Association of Public Health Inspectors and
Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, Meat and Other Foods
Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Brecknock Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1966.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecknock Rural District during the year 1966.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility with regard to public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all matters specifically requested in Circular 1/67 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area 189,532 acres.

Population..... Census 1931 8302.
Census 1951 7430.
Census 1961 8696.
Estimated Midsummer, 1966 6980.

The Registrar General's estimated population for each of the last ten years are shown below.

<u>1957.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1966.</u>
7430	7410	7410	7380	7920	6960	6950	6970	7010	6980

Inhabited Houses. The number of inhabited houses was 2303 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.0.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	47	65	112	
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
	48	66	114	16.3

The corrected birthrate was 20.3

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.7

The district rate was therefore higher than the national average and very much higher than the district deathrate, which was a very satisfactory feature.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	43	36	79	11.3

The corrected deathrate was 10.0

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.7

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average and also lower than the district birthrate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.</u>
	2	1	3	25.6

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15.4


The district rate was therefore higher than the national average.

Infant Deaths. There was one death registered during the year in a child of under one year of age, giving a rate of 8.5.

The infantile mortality rate for the whole of England and Wales was 19.0.

The district infantile mortality rate was therefore lower than the national average.

This child died when under one week old.



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Maternal Mortality. No deaths could be attributed to childbirth during the year, which was extremely satisfactory.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease One.
Respiratory tuberculosis Nil.
Other forms tuberculosis Nil.
Cancer 11.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males 43 Females 36.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Meningococcal Infections	0	1.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	0.
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	2.
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3.
Other malignant neoplasms	4	0.
Leukaemia	1	0.
Vascular lesions, nervous system	5	10.
Coronary disease	14	5.
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1.
Other heart disease	1	5.
Other circulatory disease	3	4.
Pneumonia	1	0.
Bronchitis	6	1.
Ulcer stomach	1	0.
Other defined diseases	0	1.
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2.
all other accidents	1	1.
Suicide	1	0.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr. W.J. Rees remained as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Mr. R. Taylor as your Additional Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Health laboratory at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including the milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Nursing Facilities. The County Council are responsible for the provision of ambulance facilities, home nursing, maternity and child welfare, immunisation and the treatment of minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all disease apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated at Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remains the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. The water in the district is supplied mainly by the South-East Breconshire Water Board, together with a number of private supplies.

Number of inspections of water supplies 30.
Number of satisfactory water samples 11.
Number of unsatisfactory water samples 19.

Drainage and Sewerage. The arrangements for sewerage disposal in the Rural Area are reasonably adequate.

Properties connected to main drainage.

The response of owners to arrange for their properties to be connected to the Council's new sewers is fairly satisfactory. During the year the following number of properties were provided with main drainage.

Bwlch	1.
Aber Village	2.
Llangorse	3.
Talybont	6.
Llanfrynach	1.
Llanddew	1.
Pennorth	1.
Trecastle	1.
Llanspyddid	1.

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to :-

Llanspyddid	1.
Bwlch	15.
Aber Village	6.
Llanfihangel Nantbran	10.
Cray	19.
Llanddew	28.
Llanfrynach	52.
Llangorse	71.
Llan-Talyllyn	11.
Pencelli	13.
Pennorth & Scethrog	22.
Sennybridge	273.
Talybont on Usk	102.
Trecastle	75.
Llanfilo	11.
Cradoc	14.
Total	723.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspectors 27.
 Number of Visits made by Public Health Inspectors to sewage works 44.
 Number of effluent samples taken Nil.

Public Cleansing.

During the year this service was re-organised as was necessary to meet increased demand.

All litter is removed as frequently as is found necessary from the various County Council lay-byes and the cost incurred in connection therewith is re-imbursed by that authority.

The provision of new disposal sites presents serious problems.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. W.J. Rees and the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Taylor.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received 88.
 Number of complaints investigated 88.
 Number of premises inspected 88.
 Number of premises re-visited 13.
 Number of preliminary notices served 12.
 for (a) Structural defects 4.
 (b) Sanitary defects 8.
 Number of Statutory Notices served 0.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the area.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector	44.
Number of defects found and remedied	0.
Number of notices served	0.

Shops.

Number of inspections made	53.
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Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made	17.
Number of notices served	0.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found to be very satisfactory. No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr. D. Hughes was succeeded during the year by Mr. R. Butterworth.

However, he is not wholly employed on the work of rodent destruction. Details of the work carried out during the year is as follows.

Number of premises inspected	61.
Number of premises found infested	61.
Number of premises treated by rodent operator	61.
Number of premises treated by occupier	0.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses. The work of rodent destruction on farms in the rural district is the responsibility of the Council. These are classified as business premises and a charge is made for their treatment. Either a contract for 12 months can be made costing £5, or otherwise a charge is made for labour, travelling and materials used.

Section 4. Housing. The following details show the position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by the Council during the year	18.
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year	22.
Number of inspections under the Housing Act	61.
Number of notices served	0.
Number of houses in course of erection by the Council	36.

Improvement Grants (Discretionary) - Housing Act, 1964.

Sixteen applications were received in respect of 10 properties, all of which were approved.

The total amount of grant payable and authorised - £4,985. 0. 0d.

Improvement Grants (Standard) - House Purchase Act, 1964.

Thirteen applications were received in respect of 13 properties and were approved. The total amount of grant recommended for payment was £1,795. 10. 0d.

Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.

The district is being inspected regularly and, as and when the occasion necessitates, representation is made to the Council with a view to :-

- a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works, or
- b) The making of demolition or closing orders.

Demolition Orders made	7.
Undertakings accepted	8.
Properties demolished	0.
Closing Orders served	6.
Properties closed	0.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

As in the case of factories, the Act does not apply to premises where only self employed persons work, nor where the number of hours worked by an employee amounts to 21 hours a week or less. This is to exclude the small shop or office where paid help is only occasional.

The survey of premises in the Rural Area has been carried out. Appropriate action is now being taken to see that the requirements of the Act are complied with.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The number of Food Premises in the area was as follows :-

Clubs	2.
Retailers	16.
Ice Cream Retailers	14.
Cafes	7.
Hotels where meals are served ...	12.
Fish & Chip shops	1.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion had it been found necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year as the number of persons engaged in the food trade is not very great, but in the normal course of their duties the Public Health Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

School Canteens. Visits were made to and inspections made of school canteens and dining rooms. The attention of the Brecknockshire Education Committee was drawn to those premises which did not come up to the required standard by the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, with a request that such improvements as were necessary to be carried out

Meat Inspection.

Number of various animals inspected.

<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
185	745	3	169

Number of registered slaughterhouses in the area 1.

It will be noted that there was a considerable reduction in the number of animals slaughtered, as compared with the previous year. This was due to the fact that slaughtering for the wholesale market did not occur.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle including Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number killed	185	3	745	169	-
Number inspected	185	3	745	169	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	-	50	5	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	19.5	-	6.7	3.0	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	-	0.6	-

During the year swabs were taken from various parts of the only registered slaughterhouse in the district and all these swabs were reported negative for salmonella typhimurium.

Cysticerci. No cases were discovered.

Number of visits to slaughterhouse 70.

As there were no facilities at the slaughterhouse at Llangorse for the sterilisation of condemned meat in accordance with the above Regulations all such meat is removed by the Inspectors and buried in one of the Council's refuse disposal sites.

Milk.

All retailed milk is sampled quarterly by the County Council Food and Drugs Inspector.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made 25.

There are no bakehouses in the area.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made 23.

Number of samples taken 23.

All these samples were reported as satisfactory.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops. One premises is registered in the area for the sale of fried fish. Fish sold retail from motor vans is frequently inspected and on no occasion was there cause for complaint.

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

Measles 72 cases.

The above cases occurred mainly in the first half of the year. No case was removed to hospital and no deaths occurred from infectious diseases.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year 25.

Number of fresh cases notified during the year 3.

Number of cases removed from register :

(a) Deaths 0.

(b) Left district 0.

(c) Recovered 4.

Number of cases remaining on register at end of year 24.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below :-

1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.	1961.	1962.	1963.	1964.	1965.	1966
5	7	5	9	2	2	7	0	3	1	3

One of these fresh cases was a transfer from another district.

APPENDIX.

Factories Acts 1937 to 1959.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966 FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BRECKNOCK IN THE COUNTY OF BRECON.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	7	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	19	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
Totals	18	26	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

There was no out-work done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George

Medical Officer of Health.

